

Amendments to the Title:

Delete the title "Rail Guide for a Suspendedly Guided Push Element" and add the following new title:

-- Rail Guide For A Suspended and Guided Sliding Component --

Amendments to the Specification:

Delete the sub-heading "Description" before paragraph [0001] and add the following new sub-headings and paragraph:

-- PRIORITY CLAIM

This is a U.S. national stage of application No. PCT/EP2004/005311, filed on 18 May 2004. Priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) and 35 U.S.C. §365(b) is claimed from German Application No. 103 23 274.5, filed 21 May 2003.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention --

Amend paragraph [0001] as follows:

[0001] The invention relates to a rail guide for a suspended and guided sliding component. ~~having a drive mechanism of a carriage, guided in the rail guide in a rolling manner, in a side by side disposition the rail guide consisting of two guiding rails that are disposed mirror inverted with regard to one another, each guiding rail presenting a running path for at least one carrying roller and at least one guiding roller of the drive mechanism, and two carriages, which are spaced apart, being assigned to each sliding component.~~

Before paragraph [0002] add the following new sub-heading:

-- 2. Description of the Related Art --

Amend paragraph [0002] as follows:

[0002] The sliding components guided in the aforementioned rail guide may be executed differently, for example as wood panels or glass panels, in simple or double disposition. In the extended disposition, the sliding components form a closed wall and they can be displaced by guiding them in the rail guide into a stacking area, normally in a side-by-side disposition. ~~As generally~~ Generally, two carriages are assigned to each sliding component. Provided ~~provided~~ that the spaced apart carriages ~~of supporting~~ a sliding component are guided at a single guiding rail only, ~~[[-]]~~ one turnout is required for conveyance into a stacking area, which diverts respectively one of the spaced apart carriages towards the guiding rail leading into the stacking area. However, in the case of a rail guide being formed by two adjacent guiding rails disposed side-by-side, ~~respectively~~ one of the spaced apart carriages is guided in one guiding rail and the other one is guided in the adjacent guiding rail~~[[,]]~~. In this case, one of the two adjacent guiding rails ~~forming~~ forms the branch leading into the stacking area. The invention relates to ~~is based on~~ this type of device.

Amend paragraph [0003] as follows:

[0003] The document DE 42 42 597 A1 discloses a device of this species, Each of two ~~whereby in relation to both~~ carriages for displacing ~~assigned to one~~ a sliding component, ~~both carriages are respectively~~ is guided by ~~respective with one~~ one carrying roller and one guiding roller displaceable along a single one of the first and second ~~in respectively one of the~~ adjacent guiding rails. In the aforementioned known device, a branching into a stacking position is only possible by utilizing an additional expensive turnout. According to the present invention, the device of this species thus uses two guiding rails which are disposed mirror-inverted with regard to one another; however, guidance of the carriages in the adjacent guiding rails is different from the subject matter of the application in that the characteristics described in the inventive object cannot be realized with the state-of-the-art according to DE 42 42 597 A1.

Amend paragraph [0004] as follows:

[0004] The document DE 38 14 535 C2 describes a roller device for a suspended sliding wall, wherein a one-piece guiding rail, ~~integral in cross section, is realized, being~~ has a symmetrical

structure relative in-relation to a vertical ~~centre~~ central longitudinal axis of the rail's cross section. In this case, one of the two carriages, ~~respectively~~ assigned to one sliding component, is positively guided by means of carrying rollers and guiding rollers in the right region of the guiding rail and the other one in the left region. The device allows for branching – as intended with the present invention – without involving a turnout; however, due to the required division of the guiding rail, a special section has to be provided in the branching region. The known device is particularly disadvantageous in that each carriage, in the region of the main track, ~~being~~ is only supported either in the left region or in the right region of the guiding rail, that is to say, only half of the provided profile is used by the respective carriage.

Amend paragraph [0005] as follows:

[0005] From the document EP 0 679 788 B1 is known a drive mechanism for the suspension of a door wherein the tilting moment considered to be disadvantageous, with a lateral suspension of the door, should be avoided by ~~centrally~~ centrally supporting the carrying rollers of a carriage in the guiding rail, which laterally engage with the guiding rail, the guiding rollers sitting close to the guiding rail on the exterior side thereof. In this case, two of the above described guiding rails are provided at a trunnion, which is suspended at a sub-construction, such that, in relation to a door, two spaced-apart carriages are guided in respectively one of the adjacent guiding rails. A branching is obviously not intended, and likewise could not be realized because of the trunnion that is common to the guiding rails. Moreover, the known structure requires an extraordinary construction width and increased technical expense.

Before paragraph [0006] add the following new sub-heading:

-- **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION** --

Amend paragraph [0006] as follows:

[0006] It is an object of the invention to ~~propose~~ provide a rail guide on the basis of the state-of-the-art according to DE 42 42 597 C2, in which the rail itself is improved, particularly in relation to the manufacturing process.

[0006"] Another object of the invention is to provide a rail guide having a,~~however, it has to be considered that the rail profile and the corresponding embodiment of the a~~ carriage in a branching region of a stacking area, which allows for abandoning a turnout without modifying the profile.

[0006"] Still a further object of the invention is to provide a rail guide with a main track extending ~~Furthermore, substantially over the entire profile of the rail and configured to define a~~ the displacement path for ~~of the sliding component, that is to say over the so-called main track, the complete profile of the rail guide should possibly be used by the carriage.~~

[0006"] Still a further object of the invention is to provide a rail guide providing ~~Finally, a particular embodiment of the guiding rails should guarantee~~ a smooth transition from one rail section to an adjoining rail section.

Delete paragraph [0007].

Amend paragraph [0008] as follows:

[0008] According to the invention, ~~characterizing teaching of claim 1,~~ two profiles of a guiding rail are used, which are inexpensive in manufacturing and shaping, and can be joined to form a smooth rail guide, whereby the assignment and embodiment of the carriages allows for the support of the carriages at the entire rail guide over the main track and the branching can be realized without needing a turnout.

Please delete paragraph [0009] in entirety.

Amend paragraph [0010] as follows:

[0010] As mentioned above, with a mirror-inverted embodiment of the guiding rails, the guiding rollers assigned to one carriage are formed with different heights, ~~that is to say that~~ As a consequence, the higher formed guiding roller is subject to positive guidance on both sides and, for example in a branch region, it must thus follow the assigned guiding rail, ~~however~~ .

However, the adjacent lower ~~formed~~ guiding roller is able to leave the assigned guiding rail. Therefore, while travelling on the main track, the lower formed guiding ~~rail~~ roller has a lateral guiding function only, ~~namely~~ in the region of the contact at the vertical strut of the guiding rail. It should be understood that for the deviation into the branch region of a stacking area, the guiding rollers of the respective advancing and following ~~carriage~~ carriages have to be disposed offset correspondingly.

Amend paragraph [0011] as follows:

[0011] In order to guarantee the above described guiding function, it has proven to be advantageous that a flange, oriented against the carriage, is positioned at the free end of the upper horizontal leg of the guiding rail. The ~~, which~~ flange practically guarantees the positive guidance on both sides of the higher formed guiding roller.

Before paragraph [0013] add the following new sub-heading:

-- **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS** --

Before paragraph [0018] add the following new sub-heading:

-- **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTLY PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS** --

Amend paragraph [0019] as follows:

[0019] According to the cross sectional illustration of Figure 2, a sliding component 2, presenting two panels 3 in this embodiment example, is suspended at a carriage 5 via a suspension bolt 15. The separate guiding rails 6 and 6', which are disposed mirror-inverted with regard to one another, each substantially consist of a vertically extending strut 11, upper legs 12 and 12' disposed facing each another, as well as lower legs 13 and 13' disposed facing each another, between which a longitudinal slot 14 is left for the passage of the suspension bolt 15. A drive mechanism 4, presenting carrying rollers 8 rolling on running paths 7 of the lower horizontal legs 13 and 13' as well as guiding rollers 9 and 10, is assigned to the carriage 5. In relation to the guiding roller 10, the guiding roller 9 is executed higher and, due to the positive guidance (see

Figure 1), when entering the stacking area, will thus follow a flange 18 of the upper horizontal leg 12 oriented against the carriage 5. In this case during the branching action, the lower guiding roller 10 is able to run below the above mentioned flange 18 without even contacting it. As can be seen in Figure 2, as well as particularly in Figures 3 to 5, both in the region of the upper horizontal legs 12 and 12' and in the region of the lower horizontal legs 13 and 13', aligned apertures 16 respectively 17 are provided, into which centring elements 30 (~~not illustrated~~) can be inserted, guaranteeing an accurate alignment of the butt joints of adjoining guiding rails 6, respectively 6'.

Amend paragraph [0020] as follows:

[0021] The guiding rails 6 and 6' are attached at a sub-construction having the reference numeral 19, a surface 20 of the upper horizontal legs 12 and 12', which is oriented towards the sub-construction ~~, of the upper horizontal legs 12, respectively 12', sitting and sits~~ close to a suspended plate 23, which is web-like formed. An undercut groove 21 is assigned to each of the horizontal legs 12 and 12' in this case, with which attachment screws 22 engage. At the same time, the undercut groove 21 serves for the attachment of a bracket 24 for covering a ceiling cover (not illustrated), which engages with a hook-like projection 25 ~~with~~ the undercut groove 21. The entire sub-construction 19 may be attached at a ceiling construction (not illustrated), for example by means of threaded rods 26.

Delete paragraph [0021].

Page 12, delete the heading "Patent Claims" and add the following:

-- What is claimed is: --